IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 6, 7, 9, 15, 16, 18, 24, 25, 27-39 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 1-5, 8, 10-14, 17, 19-23 and 26 as follows.

1.   (Currently Amended) An image ~~processing~~ forming apparatus comprising:

a color determination ~~means for determining a~~ unit that determines color information of a ~~new~~ pixel to be synthesized based upon a color of a ~~first~~ source pixel, a color of a ~~second~~ destination pixel and a transmissivity, ~~and~~

~~selection means for selecting~~ an attribute determination unit that determines attribute information of the ~~new~~ pixel ~~from~~ to be synthesized based upon attribute information of the ~~first~~ source pixel, ~~and~~ attribute information of the ~~second~~ destination pixel ~~in accordance with~~ and the transmissivity, wherein the attribute information of a pixel indicates ~~any~~ that the pixel belongs to which of an image, a graphic or a character; and

an image processing unit that performs image processing based upon the attribute information of each pixel determined by said attribute determination unit.

2.   (Currently Amended) The ~~image processing~~ apparatus according to claim 1, wherein in a case where the transmissivity is higher than a threshold value, said ~~selection means selects~~ attribute determination unit determines the attribute information of the

~~second~~ pixel <u>to be synthesized being</u> as attribute information of the ~~new~~ <u>destination</u> pixel~~;~~

~~whereas in a case where the transmissivity is lower than the threshold value, said selection means~~

~~selects the attribute information of the first pixel as the attribute information of the new pixel.~~

3.   (Currently Amended) The ~~image processing~~ apparatus according to claim 1, wherein <u>said attribute determination unit determines the attribute of the pixel to be synthesized being preferential attribute information defined in advance according to a combination of the attribute information.</u> ~~in a case where the transmissivity is higher than a first threshold value, said selection means selects the attribute information of the second pixel as the attribute information of the new pixel,~~

~~in a case where the transmissivity is lower than a second threshold value which is lower than the first threshold value, said selection means selects the attribute information of the first pixel as the attribute information data of the new pixel, and~~

~~in a case where the transmissivity is lower than the first threshold value but higher than the second threshold value, said selection means selects attribute information data of a pixel having a higher priority as the attribute information of the new pixel.~~

4.   (Currently Amended) The ~~image processing~~ apparatus according to claim 2, wherein ~~said selection means determines~~ the threshold value <u>is predefined</u> in accordance with a combination of ~~values of~~ the attribute information ~~of the first pixel and the second pixel.~~

5.   (Currently Amended) The ~~image processing~~ apparatus according to claim 1, <u>wherein when a conversion processing from RGB color space into YMCBk color space is performed, said image processing unit converts a black pixel represented by the RGB color components into a black pixel representative by a Bk color component.</u> ~~further comprising image processing means for performing image processing on a pixel that has a color determined by said determination means, based on the attribute information of the pixel.~~

Claims 6 and 7. (Cancelled).

8.   (Currently Amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising <u>a printing unit that performs printing based upon pixels processed by said image processing unit.</u> ~~output means for outputting an image, constructed with a pixel having a color determined by said determination means and attribute information selected by said selection means.~~

Claim 9. (Cancelled).

10.   (Currently Amended) An image ~~processing~~ <u>forming</u> method comprising:

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a color determining step of determining [[a]] color information of a

~~new~~ pixel to be synthesized based upon a color of a ~~first~~ source pixel, a color of a ~~second~~ destination pixel and a transmissivity, and

~~a selecting~~ an attribute determining step of ~~selecting~~ determining attribute information of the ~~new~~ pixel ~~from~~ to be synthesized based upon attribute information of the ~~first~~ source pixel, ~~and~~ attribute information of the ~~second~~ destination pixel ~~in accordance with~~ and the transmissivity, wherein the attribute information of a pixel indicates that the pixel belongs to which of an image, a graphic or a character; and

an image processing step of performing an image processing based upon the attribute information of each pixel determined in said attribute determining step.

11.   (Currently Amended) The ~~image processing~~ method according to claim 10, wherein ~~in said selecting step,~~ in a case where the transmissivity is higher than a threshold value, said attribute determining step determines the attribute information of the ~~second~~ pixel ~~is selected as~~ to be synthesized being attribute information of the ~~new~~ destination pixel~~, whereas in a case where the transmissivity is lower than the threshold value, the attribute information of the first pixel is selected as the attribute information of the new pixel~~.

12.   (Currently Amended) The ~~image processing~~ method according to claim 10, wherein said attribute determining step determines the attribute of the pixel to be synthesized being preferential attribute information defined in an advance according to a combination of the

a color determining step of determining [[a]] color information of a

new pixel to be synthesized based upon a color of a first source pixel, a color of a second destination pixel and a transmissivity, and

a selecting an attribute determining step of selecting determining attribute information of the new pixel from to be synthesized based upon attribute information of the first source pixel, and attribute information of the second destination pixel in accordance with and the transmissivity, wherein the attribute information of a pixel indicates that the pixel belongs to which of an image, a graphic or a character; and

an image processing step of performing an image processing based upon the attribute information of each pixel determined in said attribute determining step.

11.   (Currently Amended) The image processing method according to claim 10, wherein in said selecting step, in a case where the transmissivity is higher than a threshold value, said attribute determining step determines the attribute information of the second pixel is selected as to be synthesized being attribute information of the new destination pixel, whereas in a case where the transmissivity is lower than the threshold value, the attribute information of the first pixel is selected as the attribute information of the new pixel.

12.   (Currently Amended) The image processing method according to claim 10, wherein said attribute determining step determines the attribute of the pixel to be synthesized being preferential attribute information defined in an advance according to a combination of the

attribute information. ~~in said selecting step, in a case where the transmissivity is higher than a first threshold value, the attribute information of the second pixel is selected as the attribute information of the new pixel,~~

~~in a case where the transmissivity is lower than a second threshold value which is lower than the first threshold value, the attribute information of the first pixel is selected as the attribute information of the new pixel, and~~

~~in a case where the transmissivity is lower than the first threshold value but higher than the second threshold value, attribute information of a pixel having a higher priority is selected as the attribute data of the new pixel.~~

13.   (Currently Amended) The ~~image processing~~ method according to claim 11, wherein ~~in said selecting step,~~ the threshold value is ~~determined~~ predefined in accordance with a combination of ~~values of~~ the attribute information ~~of the first pixel and the second pixel~~.

14.   (Currently Amended) The ~~image processing~~ method according to claim 10, wherein when a conversion processing from RGB color space into YMCBk color space is performed, said image processing step converts a black pixel represented by the RGB color components into a black pixel represented by a Bk color component. ~~further comprising an image processing step of performing image processing on a pixel that has a color determined in said determining step, based on the attribute information of the pixel.~~

Claims 15 and 16. (Cancelled).

17. (Currently Amended) The ~~image processing~~ method according to claim 10, further comprising <u>a printing step of performing printing based upon pixels processed in said image processing step.</u> ~~an output step of outputting an image, constructed with a pixel having a color determined in said determining step and attribute information selected in said selecting step.~~

Claim 18. (Cancelled).

19. (Currently Amended) A computer program embodied on a computer-readable storage medium, comprising:

~~color determination procedure code means for determining a color of a new pixel based upon a color of a first pixel, a color of a second pixel and a transmissivity, and~~

~~selection procedure code means for selecting attribute information of the new pixel from attribute information of the first pixel and attribute information of the second pixel in accordance with the transmissivity, wherein the attribute information indicates any of an image, a graphic or a character.~~

<u>a color determining step of determining color information of a pixel to be synthesized based upon a color of a source pixel, a color of a destination pixel and a transmissivity, and</u>

an attribute determining step of determining attribute information of the

pixel to be synthesized based upon attribute information of the source pixel, attribute information

of the destination pixel and the transmissivity, wherein the attribute information of a pixel

indicates that the pixel belongs to which of an image, a graphic or a character; and

an image processing step of performing an image processing based

upon the attribute information of each pixel determined in said attribute determining step.

20.   (Currently Amended) The computer program according to claim 19,

wherein in a case where the transmissivity is higher than a threshold value, ~~said selection~~

~~procedure code means selects~~ said attribute determining step determines the attribute information

of the ~~second~~ pixel ~~as~~ to be synthesized being attribute information of the ~~new~~ destination pixel

~~, whereas in a case where the transmissivity is lower than the threshold value, said selection~~

~~procedure code means selects the attribute information of the first pixel as the attribute~~

~~information of the new pixel~~.

21.   (Currently Amended) The computer program according to claim 19,

wherein said attribute determining step determines the attribute of the pixel to be synthesized

being preferential attribute information defined in advance according to a combination of the

attribute information. ~~in a case where the transmissivity is higher than a first threshold value, said~~

~~selection procedure code means selects the attribute information of the second pixel as the~~

~~attribute information of the new pixel,~~

~~in a case where the transmissivity is lower than a second threshold value which is lower than the first threshold value, said selection procedure code means selects the attribute information of the first pixel as the attribute information of the new pixel, and~~

~~in a case where the transmissivity is lower than the first threshold value but higher than the second threshold value, said selection procedure code means selects attribute information of a pixel having a higher priority as the attribute information of the new pixel.~~

22. (Currently Amended) The computer program according to claim 20, wherein ~~said selection procedure code means determines~~ the threshold value is predefined in accordance with a combination of ~~values of~~ the attribute information ~~of the first pixel and the second pixel~~.

23. (Currently Amended) The computer program according to claim 19, wherein when a conversion processing from RGB color space into YMCBk color space is performed, the image processing step converts a black pixel represented by the RGB color components into a black pixel represented by a Bk color component. ~~further comprising image processing means for performing image processing on a pixel that has a color determined by said determination procedure code means, based on the attribute information of the pixel.~~

Claims 24 and 25. (Cancelled).

26.   (Currently Amended) The computer program according to claim 19,

further comprising <u>a printing step of performing printing based upon pixels processed in said</u>

<u>image processing step.</u> ~~output means for outputting an image, constructed with a pixel having a~~

~~color determined by said determination procedure code means and attribute information selected~~

~~by said selection procedure code means.~~

Claims 27-39. (Cancelled).